

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. In a telecommunications network, a method comprising the steps of:  
2 receiving a request to forward calls directed to a first destination to a second  
3 destination; and  
4 contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the  
5 second destination.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of denying the request to forward  
2 calls when the approval is not obtained.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of granting the request to forward  
2 calls when the approval is obtained.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting comprises placing a call to the  
2 second destination and requesting the approval.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the telecommunications system includes an  
2 interactive voice response (IVR) unit that generates a voice message for requesting the  
3 approval.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination is a telephone set.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination is a computer system with  
2 telephony capabilities for placing a call.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second destination is a computer system with  
2 telephony capabilities for receiving a call.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second destination is a computer system with  
2 telephony capabilities for receiving a call.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the second destination is a telephone set.

1 11. In a telecommunications network having a first computer system and a second  
2 computer system, a method comprising the steps of:  
3 providing a configuration wherein a video communication session is initially directed  
4 to the first computer system;  
5 receiving a request to direct the video communication session to the second computer  
6 system;  
7 sending a communication to the second computer system to obtain approval of the  
8 request; and  
9 redirecting the video communication session to the second computer system when the  
10 approval is obtained.

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1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the video communication session is a video  
2 conferencing session.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises  
2 sending an electronic mail message.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises  
2 sending a video mail message.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises  
2 sending a facsimile.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises  
2 placing a phone call.

1 17. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of denying the request when the  
2 approval is not obtained.

1 18. A call forwarding system comprising:  
a switch for directing calls intended for a first destination to a second destination  
when call forwarding is activated; and  
approval logic coupled to the switch for contacting the second destination to obtain  
5 approval for directing of the calls before call forwarding is activated.

1 19. The call forwarding system of claim 18, wherein the switch is a private branch  
2 exchange (PBX).

1 20. The call forwarding system of claim 17, wherein the approval logic comprises an  
2 interactive voice response unit for generating a verbal message soliciting the approval for the  
3 directing of the calls.

1 21. The call forwarding system of claim 17, wherein call forwarding is not activated if the  
2 approval for the directing of the calls is not obtained.